



Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



New York's 28th District

Orleans County | Winter 2003



Dear Friends,

I was honored to be sworn in last January as the first woman federal representative from Western New York. Getting to know Orleans County and representing its interests in the U.S. House of Representatives has been a true privilege. Please take a moment to read about the work I have been doing in Orleans County and in Washington over the last few months. If you would like to find out more about what we have been working on in the rest of the district, or if you ever need assistance, please contact my office at 585-232-4850 or my web site at www.louise.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Leading the Fight in Congress to Ban Genetic Discrimination

Did you know that there is no overarching federal law preventing employers and health insurers from testing your DNA without your consent, and then using that information to discriminate against you? Rep. Slaughter, a microbiologist with a Master's Degree in

Public Health, has led the fight in the U.S. House to pass legislation to ban genetic discrimination for the past eight years. This issue affects every human being, since we all carry dozens of genetic mutations that can predispose us to certain diseases. In October,

President Bush announced his support for this legislation, and the U.S. Senate passed it unanimously. Rep. Slaughter will continue to press the House leadership to take up and pass this very important bill.



Rep. Slaughter joins U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe (ME), Jim Jeffords (VT), Edward Kennedy (MA), Tom Harkin (IA) and Tom Daschle (SD) to announce Senate passage of legislation to ban genetic discrimination.

Fighting for New York's Farmers

Rep. Slaughter has worked hard to support the interests of New York's farmers, who are among the most productive in the nation. She recently led a bipartisan

effort to call on New York Governor George Pataki to overturn New York State's ban on the direct shipment of wine. Currently, state law prohibits wine producers

from shipping wine directly to consumers in other states, greatly impeding New York's fastest growing agricultural industry.



At a forum last spring, Rep. Slaughter and officials from the Department of Homeland Security discussed security issues with first responders from Western New York, including Orleans County.

Supporting Local First Responders

As a senior member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Slaughter knows how important it is to make sure our first responders—firefighters, police and other emergency workers—have the tools they need to protect our communities. Last spring, she held a forum to bring together dozens of local first responders with officials from the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to discuss the unique challenges they face securing the region. In response to what she heard at the forum, Rep. Slaughter helped author the Preparing America to Respond Effectively (PREPARE) Act in September. This important legislation will improve the first responder funding system, reform color-coded threat warnings and improve communications and equipment interoperability.

Increasing Access to Oak Orchard Harbor

In August, Rep. Slaughter visited Carlton to announce that she had secured \$200,000 in federal funding to dredge the Oak Orchard Harbor. The dredging project will help increase access to the harbor, strengthening the local fishing and tourism industries, local businesses and the Orleans County economy.

The authorized federal channel depth is 10 feet

in the outer areas of the harbor and eight feet in the harbor basin. Recent soundings indicate the current depths are as low as four or five feet in some areas and may be even lower when water levels drop.

The Army Corps of Engineers expects to dredge the harbor in early summer 2004, just in time for the summer boating season.



Rep. Slaughter joins Carlton Town Supervisor Roger Millis and Orleans County Legislature Chairman Marcia Tuohey at a press conference to announce she secured \$200,000 to dredge Oak Orchard Harbor.

What's going on in the rest of the 28th Congressional District? To view other county newsletters, call the district office at 585-232-4850 or log on to www.louise.house.gov.

Keeping and Creating Jobs in Western New York

Family businesses play a vital role in creating jobs and boosting the local economy in Western New York. Rep. Slaughter has intervened to stop Small Business Administration offices from closing in Western New York and has hosted several small business and contracting conferences across the region, including one in

May 2001 in which over 140 local companies and 27 different federal agencies and organizations participated. In Congress, she has introduced several bills to help protect jobs in the U.S. and has led the fight to pass a job creation package, protect overtime pay and extend unemployment benefits.

Supporting the Troops

Rep. Slaughter salutes the brave men and women who are serving our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. She continues to speak out on issues of safety and living conditions for our troops overseas and has sent letters to House leadership encouraging them to do everything possible to ensure our troops have proper safety equipment. Other key concerns include providing adequate care

of soldiers when they return and reducing age requirements for military retirement pay. Her office serves as a source of information and assistance to military personnel and their loved ones. Please contact her at 585-232-4850 or visit her web site at www.louise.house.gov.

Rep. Slaughter discusses the war in Iraq with a member of the 914th Airlift Wing at a farewell event in March.



Protecting the Great Lakes

Lake Ontario provides places like Orleans County with more than just a pretty view—it is also a source of food, drinking water and recreation for millions. Protecting the Great Lakes must be a priority for Congress.

As a member of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, Rep. Slaughter joined her colleagues to introduce the Great Lakes Environmental Restoration Act. The bipartisan bill will establish a \$4 billion Great Lakes Trust Fund and coordinate efforts between the states to clean up the Great Lakes.



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**2004 Congressional
Calendars**

Rep. Slaughter is delighted to make the beautiful 2004 congressional wall calendar from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society available to interested constituents. For a free calendar, call her office at 585-232-4850 or send an email through www.louise.house.gov/contact.htm, and a copy will be mailed to you.

Commemorating Lyndonville's 100th Anniversary

In June, Rep. Slaughter joined citizens, local officials and the Lyndonville High School Band to mark Lyndonville's 100th anniversary. She presented local officials with a statement from the Congressional Record recognizing Lyndonville's long history.

